



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Animal and
Plant Health
Inspection
Service

4700 River Road
Riverdale, MD 20737

FOR INFORMATION
DA #2004-15
April 29, 2004

SUBJECT: *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death, ramorum blight,
ramorum die-back), Addition of Listed Associated Plants

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY
OFFICIALS

On February 14, 2002, APHIS published an interim rule (7 CFR 301.92) in the Federal Register for *Phytophthora ramorum*. This rule regulates the artificial spread of this disease-causing organism from moving out of the counties where the disease is established. We have now learned that certain plants require addition to our list of Associated Plants in order to control the artificial spread of the disease.

Surveys are underway in the United States, Canada, and Europe to locate the disease and identify suspect new hosts. In April 2004, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency announced that *P. ramorum* has been found associated with a previously unlisted plant. This plant is a woody ornamental found in a nursery setting. This new associated plant is Formosa firethorn (*Pyracantha koidzumii*). As Koch's Postulates has not yet been completed, this plant is not yet recognized as a host.

Therefore, effective immediately, the above is an associated article: nursery stock of *Pyracantha koidzumii*. This action is authorized by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2002, Section 412(a) which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This action is also authorized by 7 CFR 301.92-2(b)(2) which designates as restricted articles any other product or article that an inspector determines to present a risk of spreading *P. ramorum*. This designation requires the inspector to notify the person in possession of the product or article that it is a restricted article.

This action will be reflected by regulatory changes that will be published in the Federal Register for public comment in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

/s/ Paul R. Eggert for

Richard L. Dunkle
Deputy Administrator
Plant Protection and Quarantine



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